Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 ARA-16 L-03 H-03

SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /107 W

----- 075880

R 072111Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3655

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRN, CA, CU

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AIR CANADA AND CUBAN QUESTION

REF: OTTAWA 0640; OTTAWA A-204

- 1. AIR CANADA HAS NO INTEREST IN COMMENCING SERVICE TO CUBA IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND CONSEQUENTLY IS GIVING GOC NO ENCOURAGEMENT TO RESPOND POSITIVELY TO CUBAN INITIATIVES FOR NEGOTIATION OF A BILATERAL. THIS POINT WAS EMPHATICALLY MADE TO TCO BY AIR CANADA OFFICIALS IN MONTREAL LAST WEEK.
- 2. FROM MARKETING VIEWPOINT THEY DO NOT PRESENTLY SEE SIGNIFICANT TRAFFIC OPPORTUNITIES IN COMPARISON WITH OTHER LATIN AMERICAN POINTS (ESPECIALLY CARACAS, WHICH THEY COULD SERVE AS AN EXTENSION OF BARBADOS SERVICE AND WHICH WOULD PERMIT MORE EFFECTIVE AIRCRAFT UTILIZATION THAN WOULD SERVICE TO OR VIA CUBA). HOWEVER, MARKETING STUDIES ARE BEING MADE WHICH CONCEIVABLY COULD CHANGE THAT ASSESSMENT.
- 3. THESE OFFICIALS ALSO STRESSED POLITICAL ASPECT OF SERVICE. CARRIER VALUES ITS GOOD RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT VERY HIGHLY, THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRESSED, AND IT DOES NOT WISH TO BECOME A "PAWN"

IN WASHINGTON POLICY STRUGGLE. SHOULD U.S. VIEWS ON CUBA CHANGE, AND THEIR MARKETING STUDIES PROVIDE BETTER EVIDENCE OF PROFITABLE OPERATIONS, THESE OFFICIALS HOPE THAT GOC WILL BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE A BILATERAL QUICKLY ENOUGH FOR CARRIER THEN TO COMMENCE IMMEDIATE OPERATIONS. BUT RIGHT NOW THEY INDICATED AIR CANADA IS STRESSING CAUTION. PORTER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: ETRN, CA, CU, AIR CANADA

To: STATE

Type: TE

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